

An Essay

on

The Mouth & Teeth

Respectfully Submitted to the Faculty

~~of the~~

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For the Degree of Doctor of Medicine

By

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As the mouth and teeth are so grossly neglected by the majority of persons, therefore I concluded to direct my attention ^{to} upon them and give, in as concise and limited a space as ~~possible~~ I can, a ~~few~~ few of my Ideas, which are mostly based upon practical knowledge, about those precious organs of men. There is, in my estimation, no part of the whole human structure of more importance to life, health and beauty, than those above mentioned. Let me ask what is life without health? a burden. What is health without ease and comfort? plague. And what is beauty with its tempting brilliancy, if inspired by a smell worse than that of a dead animal. There is nothing more ornamental, more beautiful and charming of all the works of God, than man, his own image. —

The ruler of the earth, ~~who~~, if possessed
 of good intellectual and natural capacities
 of either sex, endowed with brilliant black
 eyes, rosy cheeks, a fair and pleasant coun-
 tenance, is the very emblem of him, of
 whom it is said; Thou art fairer than
 the children of men, But the influence
 which the mouth and teeth exercise over
 beauty justifies the pre-eminence which
 may be attributed to them over
 all the other attractions of the
 countenance.

And especially to Ladies it is
 that fine teeth are necessary;
 since it is her destiny
 first to gratify the Eyes,
 then touch the Soul, And
 lastly to captivate the
 Heart,

Well may the Poet say?

The Eye has charms — the polished brow,

In beauty arched — the Swan-like Neck,

So beautiful — the Rosy Cheek —

The Grecian Nose and dimpled Chin, —

Still? the Lovely Mouth out-charms all,

When regular and beautiful,

Are its double row of Pearls,

Resplendent in their ruby Arch.

History informs us that the ancient Egyptians considered the extraction of a front tooth from the jaws of their criminals, as one of the most severe punishments that could be inflicted upon them; Among them, the loss of a front tooth gave rise to unpleasant suspicion, even if it was lost by accident. Thus we can perceive that great care was taken in the preservation of the teeth of that nation. —

84.
We are further informed that a person with
poor teeth was seldom found among the
Egyptians and other nations of antiquity,
The missionaries up to this very day as-
sure us that the idolatrous and uncivil-
ized heathens pay great attention to their
teeth.

Permit me now to ask; is it not a uni-
versal fact founded on Doctors & Dentists
experience, and prevailing all over the
United States, especially throughout our
rural districts and minor towns and
villages that the great majority of
persons neglect their Teeth in a shameful
manner, ^{notwithstanding} ~~and yet~~ all the opportuni-
ties to get them preserved.

Now let us take a glance ^{at} ~~upon~~ our good
old farmers, who become rich by their
diligence; see how their out door things,
horses, cattle, and poultry, are duly attended to,

how punctual they are to root out the
weed from the grain, to have fences in
good order; how they cultivate their soil to
raise a rich crop of grain, how diligent
to collect it in their proper places in good
condition. But? alas if you come to exam-
ine that part of his bodily structure with
which alone he can consult with his family
and neighbours, command his servants,
and without which he cannot at any time
be happy with his friends, and without
which he could least of all, partake of the
rich blessings, with which our
Heavenly Father presents him
for his toil, If you come to examine that
part what do you find? the whole mouth
and Teeth lined with vitiated saliva,
some of the teeth broken off "sometimes all"
some as black as jet and full of Salivary
calculi. the alveolar processes sore and

Absorbed away, the gums bleed ^{at} the slightest touch, and in short in such a condition that even the most degraded of his animals would be disgusted and refuse to masticate his nourishment with,

Next I will direct my attention for a moment to some of our fair sex, and see how punctual they are with all their exertions to have every thing around them nice and clean, and in the very best order, their victuals are good and systematically prepared, their clothes made to agree with the most prominent fashion, their hair curled, faces powdered, rings polished, handkerchiefs &c. well perfumed, in short nearly all is right. — but ah! what would Solomon say to all this, who, in his beautiful Song describes a perfect Lady: Thy teeth are like a flock of sheep that are even shorn, which came up from

the washing; whereof every^{one} bear twins,
and none is barren among them, Chap. 4:2. —
None saith he is barren, i. e., none is decayed;
they are all in proper order.

How many of the Ladies in our days would
per chance fall under Solomons Observations,
I venture to say comparatively few, esp-
ecially through the country,

Approach the buccal cavity of many
of our polished Ladies, and you will soon
see the teeth covered with a putrescible(?)
stuff, bad enough to make a person
sick, and an effluvia rushing towards
you, bad enough to produce nausea, and
vomiting and stupor, without taking
Ipecac, or Opium. "The old saying is experien-
-ce makes perfect, and what I state here I know
from experience to be so, in many cases."

A certain Lady, the wife of a very wealthy
farmer and Salesman, who is very highly

highly regarded for her good qualities
by almost every body that knows her,
in cities and among the common classes
of people throughout the country.

She called upon me one day, requesting
me to examine her teeth, stating that
she had been unwell and under
medical treatment for some time previous,
and consequently unable to perform any
work. So she concluded to come and get
her teeth and gums examined, which
she said were sore and bled freely.

I invited her in my operating chair, the
request was complied with, and the exami-
nation began, and to my great astoni-
shment I found that the majority of her
teeth were covered with salivary calculi
to such a thickness that their size was
more ^{than} twice and some three times that
of ordinary teeth. In clearing them I

sometimes handed out such tremendous
big lumps of tartar that she would rebuke
me for drawing out her teeth, and she
would not believe that it was anything
else but teeth, until I crushed a piece
to convince her that it was actually
tartar, then she became exceedingly
alarmed at the sight of such a filth that had
lodged in her mouth, and requested me
to let nobody ever know, or find out,
that she had such ugly stuff in her mouth.
After the removal of the tartar, and one
or two of the teeth, I took the remaining
under treatment and in a short time her
teeth were well, her gums were well,
and her constitutional disease with
which she complained so long left
her, so that she was entirely well
a short time afterwards, without taking
a particle more of medicine.

10.
Recently a case came under my treatment where I removed "all in one mass" three of the inferior incisors and with them a lump of tartar fully four times the size of the teeth. This patient's health was much impaired.

Many almost similar cases could I mention, which are however nothing new to Doctors and Surgeons, and therefore not interesting to our Reverend Professors,

Many cases of glandular swelling, facial tumors, Dyspepsia, &c. came under my treatment, some of which I cured without ~~without~~ hardly any medicine, except a lotion for the mouth after I had removed the old stumps. Some Physicians of a high reputation often forget to pay the due attention in making their diagnosis to examine

the gums and teeth, of their patients,
But as I have seen some old alopaths do,
and especially in chronic diseases,
in such cases I have seen them
examine the pulse, inquire into
the condition of the Bowels, sleep,
and a few more indifferent questions
then follows the prescription pretty much
after the following manner;—

Take some calomel,

The more you take the better;

Mix it with A drop,

Or two of cistern Water,

Once in each half Hour,

Take A rousing portion;

Say. A Tea Spoon full,

If that suits your notion,

Should you chance to die,

As you're almost sure to,

You may safely swear,

That it did not cure you.

How often, in calling ~~into~~ memory, such cases as I have mentioned, and a few more which I will mention yet, thus it occur to my mind what we are taught by some of Our Venerable Professors? that if we want to cure, we must first remove the cause. — What I wish to say more is, that in my opinion the connexion between the diseases of the whole system ~~with~~, and their dependence upon the disease of the teeth as a general thing receives far less attention, than the importance of the subject demands, for I assert that it is impossible to remain in a healthy condition as long as the teeth are covered with Tartar and filth, And insufficient to masticate the food properly that it can be mixed thoroughly with the Salivary juice before it enters the Stomach;

To the above assertion, I will state that some time ago, a gentleman requested me to plug some of his teeth; after they were plugged, he told me that his wife for which we extracted 21 teeth before she left the chair, some two years before, and after her gums were well healed, made her artificial teeth, he told me, that she had for a long time been very unhealthy before her old rotten teeth were extracted, But saith he, for the last 7 or 8 months, she is quite a different person, previous to the extraction of her old rotten teeth, she always complained of sick headache, Dyspepsia, often swelling of the face, sore throat, lassitude, &c. &c. so that I was often discouraged to enter the house. But saith he since she has good teeth, she sets to the table like the rest of

the family. Cats with pleasure, is hardy and comfortable, seldom complaining of any sickness, so that he would rather pay the price of a set of artificial teeth every year, "if necessary" than to have the old continual growling story over again.

Another case, of a gentleman who stopped in my office sometime last July, who was half frantic, and very angry. "Dr." said he I must have something to relieve ^{me} from my awful pain, in my face & jaws," after putting a few questions to him, as to the origin of his pain, &c. he told me that his former physician said it originated from an inevitable condition of his Stomach: which appeared very strange to me. Well after examining him a little closer, I came to his Tongue, —

(what?)

Mouth, & teeth, I found it in a miserable condition, so much so, that I would rather have put my fingers to almost any other place than in his mouth, However to the point, he came for relief, and that he obtained before leaving my office, But let me assure you, that my first step to give relief was what according to my diagnosis was the cause of the complaint, then afterwards the appropriate Remedy, and in a short time he was cured,

The last case of which mention shall be made in my thesis, is the following.

About 4 or 5 Years ago, a man, living about 5 miles from the Town in which I did live, called at my office requesting me, to come to his house to see his Lady and examine her teeth, telling me that she had such a bad taste in her mouth

that she was almost beyond respectable
approach for more than a year, and that
she was otherwise unwell, and had
^{been} so for nearly a year, and under medi-
cal treatment all that time, but with-
out any apprehensive benefit,
~~well~~ At a convenient time, I went to
see the Lady, stating to her the object
of my visit, "as ~~her~~ Husband was not
about." But she appeared very much
displeased with my visit, and refused
to let me examine her teeth, stating
to me that she had to suffer enough
by being sick all the time,
~~well~~ I coaxed her to just let me look
at them to which she at last consented,
and to my astonishment? not one sound
tooth in ^{her} mouth, but to the contrary the
whole upper & lower jaw full of rotten
and broken off stumps, and hardly a

space as large as the point of a finger
 along the whole upper or lower alveolar
 arch, where upon the slightest pres-
 sure the matter did ^{not} gush out and
 an effluvia bad enough to poison
 any person. after a few more remarks
 I made it my business to inquire what
 her disease was for which she had been
 under medical treatment so long already.
 Then she told me that her Physician
 called it Dyspepsia and Nervous debility.
 Then I told her the benefit of having
 her rotten teeth Extracted, &c. And that
 very likely it would at once relieve
 her from all her other ailments.
 Upon which she told me straight out
 that my object in reasoning and
 talking so, - was to make money; well
 then of course I left thinking, and wis-
 hing, that time would teach her sense,

Some six months after my visit I was informed that my stubborn customer was very sick. Her Physician having been my neighbour, so I inquired of him one day how Mrs. H. was, he told me that she was very low and hardly expected to recover, And that he had called two more Physicians in consultation in her case, then I inquired of him what her disease was, and the cause of it. &c. "As I had some suspicion," Well he told me she had been unwell and was complaining for nearly two years or more, with Dyspepsia and some nervous complaints. &c. And that finally her whole complaint terminated to the Head, and that matter was discharging from or through her mouth, nose, & Ears, And the cause of it he was not able to make out,

I then told that Physician, that I had seen
Mrs. H. about 7 months previous and what
the condition of her teeth, & mouth, were
then, and that my opinion was that,
that was the cause of all her troubles.
The Doctor ^{was} not slow in getting his horse,
and off he went to see Mrs. H. and found
just as I had told him, then when he
came back, called on me to go along the
following morning, "as the appointed
time when he and the two other
consulting Physicians ^{were} ~~was~~ to meet
at Mrs. H.'s Residence to see her," telling
me that I should then extract her ^{old}
rotten teeth, but I boldly refused it
thinking if she would die under the oper-
ation that I would have the responsi-
bility, so the next morning when
they met in consultation, the Doctor
stating to the two consulting Physicians

what I had told him the day previous
and that in his ^{opinion} ~~idea~~ I was correct,
"although I had not seen Mrs. H. for 7 months,"
~~well~~ ⁴ They all agreed after a thorough
examination that my diagnosis as
to the origin of the disease was correct.
And the next thing they ^{did} ~~done~~, "for all that she
was very bad," they gouged out her old
rotten teeth, and from that time on she
began to get better and recovered.

That Physician Wick is a graduate of the
University of Pennsylvania, was honest
enough then to tell me, that in Mrs. H.'s
case he learned a valuable ^{lesson} of me, as he
never in ^{any} ~~no~~ complaint whatever, took into
consideration the condition of the Teeth in
diagnosis of disease.

In conclusion, I would say that, unless
all Physicians, whoever, and whatever,
their system may be, adopt—

81.

The true Hahnemanian system
of diagnosing diseases, they will frequently
have to tarry with a great many diseases
and finally find their remedies in
vain and their all noncures.
What a blessing it would be to mankind if
all Physicians of the present day could
see as far, and be as honest as the vener-
able patriarch of Allopathy in Germany
Dr. Hufeland was, who, in expressing his
opinion about Homeopathy said.

Homeopathy seems to me to be particu-
larly valuable in two points of view.

first, because it leads the art of healing
back to the only true path of quiet
observation, and experience; and second-
ly, it furnished simplicity in the treatment
of diseases.

Therefore that people are so careless and
negligent about their Mouth & teeth is.

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owing partly to their own; but in a great measure also to the ignorance and unphilosophical ideas of their Physicians. If all the sons of Esculapius were truly taught, to teach their patients, when in health, how to live, in order that they would prevent disease and when in a diseased state, how to remove disease, by our true healing art Similia—Similibus, not half, May, not to make any comparison with figures, The civilized world would soon recover from thousands of chronic diseases, and assume the condition for which they were originally destined, with some unavoidable exceptions.

But if Oliver Wendell Holmes, who has been an able devotee to the Allopathic system, knew what he was about,—

when he said that; "if the whole Materia Medica as existing in their School, would be sunk to the bottom of the Sea, it would be all the better for mankind, And all the worse for the fishes."

It is really no wonder that people are so much perverted even at the present time, Instead of removing the cause of a patient who has a terrible drawing and beating from his jaws to his head by extracting the tooth; bleeding, Leeching, and powerful doses of Narcotics. &c. are administered, How applicable is therefore the old proverb: "An ounce of preventive is worth a pound of cure;" if applied in due time, and under suitable circumstances. When I attended my first course of Lectures One of the Honorable Professors told the graduating Class, not to write such long Theses, —

And as obedience is better than sacrifice," And as my German & English Dictionary is nearly worn out from my use of it," so I will close by praying our Venerable Professors to excuse mistakes and shortcomings and to consider that along with the Study of Medicines and the Medical profession I had to study the English Language, and attend to a great many more troubles and inconveniences, Hoping to Receive the sympathies of Our worthy and Honorable Faculty.

I am Your unworthy servant,
Isaac, C. Detweiler